

Please cancel claims 1-24 and 35-38, without prejudice, and amend claims 25, 27, and 34 as follows:

C1 25. **(Amended)** A method for producing a fine chemical, comprising culturing a cell containing a vector comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 such that the fine chemical is produced.

C2 27. **(Amended)** The method of claim 25, wherein said method further comprises the step of transfecting said cell with a vector comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 to result in a cell containing said vector.

34. **(Amended)** A method for producing a fine chemical, comprising culturing a cell whose genomic DNA has been altered by the inclusion of an isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

SVB D4) a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 60% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof;

C3 b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 30 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof;

c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 60% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.